

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-8 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 8 being independent. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended herein. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph due to recitation of the feature that a coating liquid supply port and a rinsing liquid supply port are different. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, due to recitation of the coating liquid supply port and the rinsing liquid supply port. Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, Applicants have deleted the stated recitation from independent Claims 1 and 8. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, first and second paragraph rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,851,566 (“Potjer”). Claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Applicants’ admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of JP 10-282329 A (“Asahi”). Claims 2 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over AAPA in view of Asahi, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,958,517 (“Poag”). Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,817,441 (“Iwata”) in view of AAPA and Asahi. Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Potjer in view of Poag. Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Potjer in view of AAPA. Claims 1 and 8 have

been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,456,755 (“Oomori”) in view of JP 09-141178 A (“Ide”). Claims 2, 6, and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Oomori in view of Ide, and further in view of Poag. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite, among other features, that a coating liquid supply path and a rinsing liquid supply path are separated, and that, when the supply of coating liquid is stopped, rinsing liquid is supplied intermittently to a coating head. According to the claimed invention, in which the coating liquid supply path and the rinsing liquid supply path are completely different, manufacturing efficiency can be improved significantly, and a consumption of the rinsing liquid can be reduced.

According to the invention, a coating head has a slit orifice from which coating liquid can be ejected. In order to solve the problems of stoppage and drying of a slit orifice, when the supplying of the coating liquid is stopped, rinsing liquid is supplied intermittently to the coating head, as recited in the independent claims.

Potjer discloses that a coating liquid supply port and a rinsing liquid supply port are common, and that a coating liquid supply path and a rinsing liquid supply path are also common partially. In the Office Action, the coating liquid supply port and the rinsing liquid supply port and the coating liquid supply port of Potjer are said to be different. Applicants respectfully traverse this statement and submit that the coating liquid supply port and rinsing liquid supply port in Potjer are provided at the head. In any case, Applicants submit that Potjer does not teach or suggest that a coating liquid supply path and a rinsing liquid supply path are

separated. Further, Applicants submit that Potjer neither teaches nor suggests that when the supply of the coating liquid is stopped, rinsing liquid is supplied intermittently to a coating head.

Regarding the AAPA, Applicants submit that it fails to teach or suggest at least that when the supply of a coating liquid is stopped, rinsing liquid is supplied intermittently to a coating head. Further, Asahi does not remedy this deficiency of AAPA with respect to the claimed invention.

Poag discloses a technique for rinsing a substrate, and Iwata discloses a method of manufacturing a color filter. Applicants submit that neither of these references compensates for the deficiencies in AAPA and Asahi with respect to the claimed invention. For example, while Poag discloses a periodic rinsing, it fails to teach or suggest that, when the supply of a coating liquid is stopped, a rinsing liquid is intermittently supplied to a coating head.

Oomori discloses a coating gun having a coating liquid supply path and a rinsing liquid supply path mutually different from each other. As noted in the Office Action, Oomori neither teaches nor suggests a slit orifice for ejecting. Applicants submit that Oomori also fails to teach or suggest at least that, when the supply of a coating liquid is stopped, a rinsing liquid is supplied intermittently to a coating head.

Ide discloses a slit orifice for ejecting, but fails to compensate for the deficiency in Oomori regarding intermittent supply of rinsing liquid when supply of a coating liquid is stopped. And, as submitted above, Poag does not teach or suggest that feature of the claimed invention.


Accordingly, Applicants submit that the independent claims are patentably distinguishable over all of the cited references, whether those references are taken alone or in the various combinations proposed in the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

The dependent claims recite additional features that further distinguish the present invention from the cited art. Individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue at the Examiner's early convenience are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in Washington, D.C. by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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